# NOTE XXV.

## DESCRIPTION OF THREE NEW SPECIES AND A SYNOPSIS OF THE BUPRESTID GENUS ASTRAEUS, C. & G.

BY

**J. R. H. NEERVOORT van de POLL.**

Messrs. Castelnau and Gory established the genus *Astraeus* for the reception of a beautiful Australian Buprestid, *A. flavopictus* of those authors. — Mr. Edw. Saunders in his »Revision of the Australian Buprestidae described by the Rev. F. H. Hope" placed *Stigmodera Samouelli* Hope in the genus *Astraeus*. — In the Munich Catalogue mention is made of these two species only, but in the »Catalogus Buprestidarum" of Mr. Saunders still a third species is enumerated, viz.: *A. navarchis* Thoms. This species, which was described as a *Conognathus*, is unknown to me, but judging from description and figure it is undoubtedly an *Astraeus*. — More recently MacLeay described *A. Mastersi*, but this is merely a variety of *A. Samouelli* Hope, which differs from the typical form in having the second sutural spot confluent with the spot below the shoulder.

A peculiarity, not mentioned by any of the authors, is the enlargement of the elytra below the shoulders which covers the sides of the breast. — In *A. flavopictus* the elytra are only slightly enlarged in a curved line, but in *A. Samouelli* this appendix is broader and cut off in a straight line posteriorly, just along the metasternum. A peculiar facies goes side by side with these elytral-types, and I found it the best characteristic for the divisions of my tabulation.

### 1. *Astraeus aberrans*, v. d. Poll.

*Supra subnitidus, niger, purpureo-internitens, fronte et lateribus prothoracis cuprescentibus, elytris plurimis maculis flavis strigiformibus ornatis; subtus obscure aeneus, nitidus, segmento primo et secundo abdominis ad latera macula flava notato. Omnino pubescentia grisea induta, in elytris obsoletissime. Caput fortiter ruguloso-punctatum, in medio linea glabra longitudinali. Prothorax convexus, lateribus apicem versus subangustatis, fortiter punctatus, ad latera rugosus. Elytra ad basin thorace nonnihil angustiora, apicibus fere haud divergentibus, spinis suturalibus et marginalibus parvis, obtusis; profunde striata, interstitiis aequaliter elevatis, fortiter densissimeque transversaliter ruguloso-striatis. Pars infera crebre punctata, in abdomine subtilius.* — Long. 14 mm., lat. 6 mm.

*Habitat* Australia occ. — In mus. nostro.

Uppersurface black with a purplish tinge, the forehead and the sides of the thorax coppery, slightly shining; the elytra ornated with numerous strigiform yellow spots, viz.: a row of three spots close to the suture, reaching beyond the middle, an other row of four spots along the middle, overreaching the foregoing, one spot at the base between these rows and two spots above at the outer margin. These spots are not quite symmetrical on both the elytra and we may suppose a great variability. Underside and legs dark bronzy, shining, the first and second abdominal segment with a small round yellow spot at each side. The head, thorax and undersurface rather closely, the elytra extremely finely clothed with a silvery pubescence.

Head strongly rugosely punctured, with a longitudinal glabrous line in the middle.

Prothorax convex, deeply punctured in the middle, the sides strongly rugose; the front margin somewhat produced in the center, the sides slightly narrowed towards the top.

Elytra somewhat narrower at the base than the thorax, broadest behind the middle, emarginated below the shoulders, hardly diverging at the apices, the sutural and marginal spines short and obtuse; deeply striated, the interstices about equally elevated and transversely rugosely striated.

Underside closely punctured, more finely on the abdomen.

This species differs largely from all the other known species by the sculpture of the elytra, the strigiform spots, the hardly diverging suture etc.

### 2. *Astraeus elongatus*, v. d. Poll.

*Elongatus, angustus, nitidus. Caput viride, in vertice obscurius; prothorax viridis, in medio nigrescens; elytra atrocoerulea, singula elytra septenis maculis flavis ornata; pars infera pedesque colore laete viridi nitentia. Caput fronte crebre, vertice sparsim, punctatum. Prothorax convexus, lateribus apicem versus nonnihil angustatis; fortiter punctatus, lateraliter subrugosus. Elytra apicibus divergentibus, spinis suturalibus et marginalibus validis, subacutis; singula elytra supra costis novenis acutis, lateraliter striis binis, interstitiis sparsim punctatis. Subtus crebre punctatus, in abdomine subtilius sed densissime; pubescentia minutissima grisea indutus.* — Variat. *thorace in medio cyanescente, elytris laetioribus.* — Long. 10 mm., lat. 3 mm.

*Habitat* Australia occ. and Queensland. — In mus. nostro.

Head green, with the vertex dark bluish green; prothorax green with the median lobe somewhat blackish; elytra black with a cyaneous tinge, each of them ornated with seven irregular round yellow spots, viz.: a row of four spots close to the suture, the first at the base, the second before the middle, the third just below the middle and the fourth midway between this and the apex, and a row of three spots, corresponding with the interstices of the first row, at the outer margin. Undersurface and legs bright shining golden-green.

The specimen from Queensland varies in having the central portion of the thorax cyaneous, while the elytra are also more bluish.

The head coarsely punctured in front, much more distantly on the vertex.

The prothorax deeply and coarsely punctured, towards the sides rather rugose, the fordermargin slightly produced in the middle, the sides somewhat narrowed anteriorly, the base very deeply bisinuate, the posterior angles acute and strongly projecting.

Elytra as broad as the thorax at the base, the sides almost parallel, behind the middle narrowed towards the apices, which are divergent and provided with a strong subacute sutural spine and a short marginal one just above it. Each elytron has nine sharp ridges on the disk, with the interstices deepened, and two deep striae along the margin, with the interstices subconvex; all the interstices with deep but distant punctures.

Beneath coarsely punctured, the punctures becoming more numerous and finer at the abdomen; with a few scattered hairs.

This species is very parallel and, in proportion to its length, very narrow.

### 3. *Astraeus pygmaeus*, v. d. Poll.

*Nitidus; caput fronte cyaneo, vertice obscure purpureo; prothorax cyaneus, in medio violaceus, in lateribus viridescens; elytra atro-coerulea, singula elytra maculis quaternis flavis ornata; pars infera pedesque cyanea, apicibus tibiarum et articulis primis tarsorum testaceis. Caput crebre punctatum, linea longitudinali glabra. Prothorax convexus, lateribus apicem versus valde angustatis, crebre sed subtiliter punctatus. Elytra apicibus valde divergentibus, spinis suturalibus acutissimis; singula elytra supra novenis costis acutis, lateraliter striis binis, interstitiis sparsim punctatis. Subtus dense punctatus, pubescentia minutissima tectus.*

Var. *subfasciata* m. *a typo differt: macula flava posthumerali cum macula secunda sub-suturali confluente.*

Long. 6 mm., lat. $2^3/_4$ mm.

*Habitat* Queensland. — In mus. nostro.

Head blue in front, purple brown on the vertex; thorax cyaneous, violaceous in the middle and greenish at the sides; elytra bluish-black, each with four yellow spots, the first at the base near the suture, the second below this before the middle, the third below the shoulder, touching the outer margin, and the fourth midway between the second spot and the apex, touching neither the suture nor the outermargin. Underside and legs cyaneous, the tips of the tibiae and the first joint of the tarsi flavous.

Head strongly punctured in front, more sparsely on the vertex, with a longitudinal smooth line in the middle.

Prothorax densely but finely punctured, the punctures become however larger towards the sides; the front margin straight, the sides narrowed towards the top, the base deeply bisinuate.

Elytra as broad as the thorax at the base, gradually narrowed posteriorly; the apices strongly divergent, armed with a long and acute sutural spine and a short acute one just above it. Each elytron with nine sharp ridges on the disk and with two deep striae at the outermargin, the interstices between the ridges deepened, those between the striae subconvex, and deeply but sparsely punctured.

Beneath thickly covered with minute punctures and with a few scattered hairs.

The variety *subfasciata* differs from the type in having the second and third elytral spot confluent; the single specimen I possess has the head and the thorax more greenish with the vertex and the base of the thorax blackish.

This species is very close to *Astraeus Samouelli* Hope and, notwithstanding the great difference in size and the want of the fifth elytral spot, I was at first inclined to regard it as a minor variety of that species; the position of the apical spot, however, does not allow to unite them.

## Synopsis of Species.

A. Elytra below the shoulders slightly enlarged in a curved line. — The central portion of the body almost parallel.

a. Elytra striated.

1. The elytral interstices transversely rugosely striated; ornated with numerous strigiform yellow spots. . . [*Aberrans* v. d. Poll.

2. The elytral interstices sparingly punctured; each elytron with seven or eight yellow spots. . . . . . . . . [*Flavopictus* C. & G.[1].

3. The elytral interstices punctured; each elytron with a yellow band at the middle and a yellow spot near the top. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . *Navarchis* Thoms.[2].

b. Elytra costate.

4. The elytral interstices punctured, each elytron with seven yellow spots. . . . . . . . *Elongatus* v. d. Poll.

B. Elytra below the shoulders more strongly enlarged; this appendix cut off in a straight line along the metasternum. — The body broadest before the middle, gradually narrowed anteriorly and posteriorly.

5. Elytra costate[3]; each elytron with five yellow spots (the 2nd and 3rd spot sometimes confluent = *Mastersi* Mac Leay). . . . . . . . . . . . . . *Samouelli* Hope[4].

6. Elytra costate; each elytron with four yellow spots (the 2nd and 3rd spot sometimes confluent = var. *subfasciata* m.). . . . . . . . . . . *Pygmaeus* v. d. Poll.

---

1) Castelnau & Gory's type-specimen was a variety with two or three apical spots of the sub-sutural row confluent.

2) As already mentioned above, I know that species from description only.

3) Saunders calls the sculpture of this insect erroneously punctate-striate.

4) var. nov. *dilutipes* m. *a typo differt, pedibus prorsus testaceis, tarsorum articulis* 2—4 *nigrescentibus.*